

TERMS OF THIS PAPER.

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CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1859.

BAPTIST CONVENTION.

The Baptist Convention of Nova Scotia, New-Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, commenced its seventh annual session at the Baptist Meeting House of the 2d Church in Sackville, on Saturday last. Preaching by the Rev. Wm. Hall, of Windsor.—The Rev. Charles Tupper, V. P., in the absence of the President, called the meeting to order. The Rev. Wm. Hall was chosen Secretary pro tem.

A large number of Delegates from the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, were in attendance, but there were none from Prince Edward Island. The delegates took their seats, and the usual committees were chosen to report on Monday.

Preaching on Sabbath morning by Dr. Maclay, from John xvi. 46 and 47, "And said unto them, thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day," &c. In the afternoon brother Burton preached from Rev. xxi. 14, "Blessed are they that do his commandments." In the evening brother William Chipman, of Cornwallis, preached from Rev. iii. and 20, "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me." The congregations were large, and exceedingly attentive to the faithful exhibitions of gospel truth, from the lips of the Lord's servants. May the good seed sown, be productive of a rich harvest.

Several of the brethren were preaching in other sections of Sackville. Their meetings were also well attended and the services interesting.

Monday session commenced by the introductory Sermon from brother George Armstrong, text, St. John's Gospel xvii. 20 and 21, subject, Christian union. The speaker dwelt upon the nature, duty, and advantages of union. It was a clear elucidation of God's truth, forcibly expressed, and happily applied. After the sermon Dr. Cramp read the Report of Acadia College, and the day was spent in discussing the necessities and prospects of the Institution.

The evening service commenced by a discourse from brother Bill, founded upon 1st chapter of Phil., and last clause of the 27th verse, "Striving together for the faith of the gospel." The sermon was designed as an appendix to the morning discourse, showing Christian union in action, as applicable to the interests of Baptist Churches. After the sermon the endowment plan was presented to the meeting, and addresses delivered by Dr. Maclay, brethren Cutten, Burton, Blenkhorn, Seelye, Robinson, Thomson, Harris, Bill, Francois and Bently, &c., &c.

The meeting was one of deep interest; and the endowment fund much enlarged. We were delighted to see a proposal made by several of the Amherst brethren, to create two Scholarships, one to bear the name of Rev. Mr. McCully and the other of the Rev. Charles Tupper. The first of these was made up on the spot by three brethren; and the other commenced, with a fair prospect of a speedy completion. Honor to whom honor is due. Father McCully sleeps in dust, but the Christian offering of these brethren, erects an undying monument to his memory.

On Tuesday morning brother Thomson, of St. John, preached to an attentive congregation from Hebrews ii. and 14, in the chapel, while the Convention was in session in the house belonging to the 1st Baptist Church.

One object of this meeting was to decide who are to fill up the faculty of Acadia College, in case the endowment plan succeed. All eyes were turned towards Dr. Crawley; and a strong resolution, was unanimously passed, inviting him to become associated with Dr. Cramp in the management and instruction of the College. This resolution was passed, not as a matter of compliment to Dr. Crawley, for past services, but as expressive of the earnest desire of all concerned, that the Dr. would see it his duty to return to the sphere of his former labours. We should rejoice to see him thus

engaged, because we believe the interests of the College and the prosperity of our churches would be enhanced by such an arrangement. If we can get our College endowed, and two such men at its head as Drs. Cramp and Crawley, we shall be inspired with renewed vigor in the cause of Education.

Tuesday evening was devoted to a Foreign Missionary Meeting. After the reading of the Report by the Secretary, Brother Hunt, addresses were delivered by brethren Francis, Thomson, Hunt, Bill, Miles, Harris, Bently and Crawley. The simple statements of the last mentioned brother, in reference to his views, feelings, and determinations, as one, who feels himself called to preach the message of life to the benighted heathen, were exceedingly thrilling, and deeply interested the congregation. The Lord bless our young brother, and send him forth clothed with power divine, that he may be instrumental in guiding many a poor wandering heathen to the path of life!

An earnest appeal was made to the Board, by our returned missionary, brother Burpe, requesting that he might be again sent out; stating that he firmly believed that he would live longer in the climate of Burmah, than in this climate; and that he longed to bear the tidings of Calvary, *once more*, to that far off land. Some of the brethren spoke very strongly in favor of compliance with his appeal, and of sending him at once; but others thought it was better for him to remain in his present state of health, and be sustained here by the Board. Deep sympathy was expressed for him in his affliction; and it was finally decided that the debilitated state of his constitution would not justify the Board in conforming to his wishes. How far this decision is right, a judgment day will unfold. For ourselves, we must say, that we sympathise most deeply with the views and feelings of our dear brother, and we should rejoice greatly if the desire of his heart were granted him.

Some other matters engaged the attention of the session; but the two principal objects embraced by the Convention are EDUCATION and FOREIGN MISSIONS; the time was therefore principally taken up in discussing these important subjects. It is pleasing to know that although brethren sometimes differ in reference to the best modes of carrying forward these objects, that in respect to the work itself, all are agreed.

The Session upon the whole was one of deep interest. Brethren gave full and free expression to their sentiments on all subjects which came up for consideration; and amidst some apparent difference of opinion there was evidently an unwavering determination to go forward harmoniously in the work of the Lord. We shall invite attention to this subject again next week, and publish some of the most important of the resolutions.

WESTERN N. B. BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The meeting-house could not contain the multitude assembled to hear these discourses. Candor, fairness and affection characterised all the proceedings, and many Baptists in the United States might learn a useful lesson from this Provincial gathering. Discussion of appropriate subjects was invited, not stifled. Committees were so constituted that different interests and opinions were represented. Men talked with each other as if indeed brethren. You could not mingle among them without being impressed with the conviction that here was a body of men with high aims, enlarged views, and entire devotion to the cause which convened them, in all its aspects. No sacrifice of truth upon the altar of expediency; no one's understanding insulted by blinking, and cashing a fundamental Christian principle under the plea of preserving the peace of the churches; no miserable political manœuvres, wriggling in the mud of small parliamentary tactics, grasping the organization of the association, depriving it by indirection of the counsels of the wise and good, or impairing the influence which appropriately belongs to them in such assemblies.—N. York Chron.

MARINER'S DIVISION, No 38, S. or T.—A public Temperance meeting, under the auspices of the above named Division, was held in the Sons of Temperance Hall, on Tuesday evening last. The Hall was densely crowded, and the meeting was one fraught with unusual interest. The Chair was taken on the occasion by D. G. W. P. John Fraser.—Speeches were delivered by the Chairman, the Rev. Mr. Clay, Mr. Donald Fraser, Rev. Mr.

Porter, Mr. Crosby, and Mr. C. Harbell.—Tem. Tel.

We were sorry not to be able to attend the meeting. We hear that our Bro. Clay's lecture highly interested the audience.

We have pleasure in calling attention to the steamer Maid of Erin. We came from Sackville in her on Wednesday night, and were much pleased with all her clean and orderly arrangements. Her Captain appears a most gentlemanly man, very attentive to his passengers, and the crew is well conducted.—She made her passage, with wind right ahead, in 12 hours.

Owing to our absence at the Convention, several Editorial articles and Communications are unavoidably deferred this week.

We call especial attention to the paper upon DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Correspondence.

(FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.)

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

We believe that this earth, so long under the curse, is to become filled with purity and happiness, when the will of the Lord will be done on earth as in heaven. This belief has stimulated Christians to great and successful exertion; and they expect that these exertions will finally result in the regeneration of the world. Missionaries are now engaged in proclaiming the glad tidings of salvation not only to the ignorant at home but to those sunk in ignorance and superstition abroad. The Christian world has found that giving has not impoverished, the bread cast upon the waters, has been returned seven fold. Foreign and Domestic Missions mutually act upon each other. Success abroad stimulates to increase of zeal and piety at home; success at home produces increased efficacy abroad. For either to be efficient the other must be in a healthy condition.

We acknowledge it to be our duty to send the gospel to the heathen—we also lament the destitute at home; but what are we doing? Have we a representative among those ready to perish? Are our hearts gladdened as we hear of the new found freedom of the wretched slaves of sin and idolatry? Or, on the other hand, are we busily engaged at home, reaching the ignorant—extending the boundaries of the kingdom of Christ, preparing for fresh onsets upon the power of the evil one?

It is true that we should work in earnest. In these British Provinces there are hundreds of thousands who have been nurtured in a creed which has been proved to be incompatible with civil liberty and prosperity—and plainly opposed to the letter and spirit of the gospel. The population increases, while there is no corresponding increase of religious instruction. At least two-thirds of our fellow countrymen are ignorant of that religion which alone can save their souls. Churches are without Pastors, Ministers are falling one by one, our young men are not sufficient to supply the deficiency—they prefer other employments. Our institutions are poorly supported; our College in Montreal has fallen; our foreign missionary enterprise is flagging, while our domestic missions are prosecuted to a lamentably limited extent. These things ought not to be. Of all other enterprises our Domestic Mission should be conducted with the utmost enthusiasm. Our country is destined to become populous. The objections of this generation have the opportunity of infusing into it that life which shall render it henceforth and forever prosperous and happy. Woe unto us if we neglect to train this young country in the way in which it should go.

God has decreed that the Provinces of British North America should one day be a power. The waters of two oceans leave their shores. Noble rivers—vast inland seas—extensive bays afford communication between province and province, and open for their enterprise the wide field. Its soil is capable of sustaining a hundred times its present population. Beneath the surface of the earth are inexhaustible supplies of those minerals which have made England what she is—while the choicest fisheries in the world are before our doors. Have we not in them ample material upon which to expend our energies? Besides these natural resources we have a climate of all others best fitted to pro-

duce men. The ice of the North does not benumb our energies—nor are we enervated by Southern sun. In addition to all these advantages of country, we have sprung from a race which seems to be advancing rapidly to universal dominion. The blood of the free energetic protestant Saxon courses through our veins, and we have a religion which has given to England and America the proud pre-eminence which they now occupy. Our growth has not been so rapid as that of the neighboring republic; but our soil has not yet been polluted by the fugitive slave hunter; all our men are men. The prosperity that comes from the "peculiar institution of the south," we ask not. The strength that we would derive from a pauper, infidel, or superstitious emigrant population, we do not desire.

With all these advantages are we not to be a people. Was it for no end that the Almighty planted a Saxon people in a congenial soil? and preserved it from noxious weeds. While a nation is being moulded into form, we will not look coldly on. We must fulfil our duty to these unborn millions who shall call this their native lands. So far as human eye can see, the future of our beloved country depends upon us. What a tremendous responsibility! We cannot refuse it, we should not wish to. Let us meet it as Christian patriots should. We have heard of men who could die for their country, shall Christians be less patriotic. Shall men of the world risk property, life and liberty for their native land, while the children of the kingdom, whose thoughts are accustomed to dwell upon heaven and heavenly things, who have pondered upon the awful realities of the unseen world, refuse to make those sacrifices which would ensure the future prosperity of their country—the temporal and eternal happiness of their fellow-countrymen. We have not long since seen veterans in arms—risking the present for the future. Have we no Christian patriots? Shall two-thirds of our population remain in ignorance—shall the prospects of our country be injured if not destroyed by our want of Christian love? The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

The Pilgrim Fathers, mindful of their sacred duty, left a legacy to their children far more precious than gold or silver. They have made New England what it is. They cared for the future of their country, and now their names are held in grateful remembrance. Millions of our enlightened Christian people year by year offer up to the Giver of every good, their sincere thanksgivings for the blessings which they owe to these holy men. Shall the millions who are to people our country thus bless our memory. Of that army of the Lord of hosts who shall go up to his help against the mighty, the people of these provinces may be in the vain. Shall it be so—or hereafter shall they leave their congregations to some more Christian people?

Never since the world was made has there been better opportunity of moulding a Christian nation so effectually, as that now offered to us. Shall we refuse or accept this opportunity?

(FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.)

DEAR BRETHREN.—As one of the Delegates to the Convention, allow me to say that I was glad to see how happily the meeting broke up, and I am disposed to think the time will not be long before the necessary fund is raised to endow ACADIA COLLEGE.—How nobly some came forward and put down together, I think FIFTY POUNDS. Could every Member of the Church be induced to put his hand into his purse, and give as God has prospered him, the thing would be done at once! Let us then have A FULL, A STRONG FULL, AND A FULL ALTOGETHER.—How delightful is UNION, and if the Baptists remain united they will be invincible, and in God's cause nothing will be too great for them to accomplish. Let us then in the fear of God—in the love of the Church—and in the hope of a brighter and a more glorious day, add to our faith courage, to our courage the wisdom of the serpent without its venom, the harmlessness of the dove without its timidity; and in the humble and meek spirit of the Gospel, stand up courageously, cordially, and with one consent, for the truth, and nothing but the truth; thus giving to all men an unequivocal and noble proof of our holy religion, love to the truth, and boldness "to contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints."

I am yours truly in Christ,
St. John, Sept. 24. C. D.